

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1302
By Maggart

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Andrew Haag for being named as the recipient of the 2006 Bootstrap Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those students who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to academic excellence, have distinguished themselves in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Haag is one such exceptional student; a member of the 2006 graduating class at Hendersonville High School in Sumner County, he has earned an exemplary 4.48 grade point average in his remarkable high school career, and has been selected to receive the 2006 Bootstrap Award; and

WHEREAS, the Bootstraps Foundation, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Nashville, provides the gift of advanced education to those who have overcome life's adversity and are on the path to achieving great things; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, when Andrew Haag was eight years old, he sustained critical injuries in a fateful car accident on Christmas Eve, which left his body broken and paralyzed; he also lost his father and a brother that day; and

WHEREAS, instead of questioning the value of his life, Andrew Haag gained strength and respect for life from those around him, and proved that his spirit could not be broken; and

WHEREAS, an avid sports fan, Mr. Haag has tirelessly followed his school's athletic team, climbing the bleachers for each game using his forearm crutches; he rarely used that seat, choosing instead to stand and cheer his team and his older brother, Eric, who managed the team; and

WHEREAS, when his brother graduated, Andrew Haag enrolled in high school and assumed his brother's role as team manager, unselfishly providing support and assistance to the team; he was ultimately honored by his fellow teammates at the end of this year's football

season, receiving a standing ovation as he was presented with the highly valued "Commando Pride" award, which had never before been received by a person who was not a player; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Haag never suited up with pads and a helmet, nor could he run onto the field without the assistance of crutches, but he chose to accept his life and his physical challenges, and to help others while overcoming his adversities; he stands as tall as any Commando in the school's history, and represents the epitome of Commando Pride; and

WHEREAS, always smiling, enthusiastic, and optimistic, this incredible young man is a exceptional student, ranking in the top ten percent of his class of 364; he plans to follow in his brother's footsteps and attend the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where he has already gained the respect of the Volunteer's Coach, Phil Fulmer, and will also help manage the football program in Knoxville, as his brother did; and

WHEREAS, for the past four years at Hendersonville High School, Andrew Haag coached powder puff football teams which never lost a game; he thereby earned the title of "Winningest Coach" in HHS history, but he was certainly an encourager, a friend, and a valued presence as well; and

WHEREAS, through diligent study, steady composure during examinations, and steadfast commitment of time and talent, Mr. Haag has achieved outstanding academic success and has joined the ranks of the best and brightest students in Tennessee and our country; and

WHEREAS, a valuable participant in his school's activities and his community's affairs, Andrew Haag is vice president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and a member of DECA, FBLA, BETA club, National Honor Society, the wheelchair basketball team, and the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital Pediatric Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, in all areas of life, Andrew Haag exhibits qualities which bring honor to his parents, his church, and his community; relying on his faith in God, he has truly "pulled himself up by his bootstraps" and has triumphantly weathered storms which would have beaten those with a weaker spirit; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Haag's display of intellectual aptitude and ambition surely bodes well for his future success; and

WHEREAS, his noteworthy achievements are a tremendous source of pride for his family, his school, and his community; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Haag's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative Body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Andrew Haag of Hendersonville High School upon being named the recipient of the 2006 Bootstrap Award, salute him for his extraordinary dedication and unwavering character, and extend to him our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.